

Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 DLOS-07 COME-00 AGR-20 SP-03

AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01 CIEP-03 TRSE-00 SS-20

STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03

SAM-01 DRC-01 /181 W

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R 131635Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 195

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 7414

PASS: COMMERCE, NMFS, FOREIGN FISHERIES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, IV

SUBJ: IVORIAN FISHERY STATISTIC 1973

1. IN 1973 IVORIAN FISH PRODUCTION DECLINED 16 PERCENT FROM 1972'S FIGURES WHILE FROZEN FISH IMPORTS CLIMBED 132 PERCENT. FOR THE FIRST TIME FISH IMPORTS EXCEEDED PRODUCTION. THE SARDINE FISHERY WAS HARDEST HIT BY A CHANGE IN OCEANOGRAPHIC CONDITIONS WHICH REDUCED THE QUANTITIES OF FISH WHICH NORMALLY APPEAR. IN MAY 1973, GHANA EXTENDED ITS FISHERIES ZONE FROM 12 TO 30 MILES, CLOSING THIS AREA TO THE IVORIAN SEINE FLEET WHICH ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE DECLINE IN IVORIAN SARDINE PRODUCTION.

2. OVER FISHING IN IVORIAN WATERS HAS CAUSED A STEADY DECLINE IN PRODUCTION FROM THEIR OWN COASTAL ZONE. IN 1973 ONLY 43 PCT OF THE SARDINE CATCH AND 36 PCT OF THE BOTTOM FISH CATCH WERE CAUGHT ON THE IVORIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF. THE VESSELS ARE HAVING TO TRAVEL GREATER DISTANCES TO THE CONTINENTAL SHELVES OFF NEIGHBORING UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRIES TO MAKE THEIR CATCH. ALTHOUGH IVORIAN SEINERS

AND TRAWLERS USE ICE TO PRESERVE THEIR CATCH WHICH LIMITS THE AMOUNT OF TIME THEY CAN SPEND AT SEA. ANOTHER BLOW OCCURRED IN JANUARY 1974, WHEN SIERRA LEONE FAILED TO RENEW IVORIAN FISHING VESSEL PERMITS WHICH IN EFFECT GUARANTEES AN ADDITIONAL REDUCTION IN PRODUCTION FOR 1974. AS NEARLY 20 VESSELS HAVE BEEN WORKING THERE YEAR ROUND. AN ATTEMPT IS BEING MADE TO REVERSE THE DECLINE IN PRODUCTION BY NEGOTIATING FISHING AGREEMENTS WITH COASTAL COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY SENEGAL AND MAURITANIA. REPORTEDLY, SENEGAL IS INSISTING THAT ALL FISH CAUGHT IN THEIR WATERS BE LANDED FOR PROCESSING IN SENEGAL BEFORE BEING EXPORTED. IVORY COAST IS OBJECTING TO THIS BECAUSE OF THE INCREASED COSTS THIS WILL CREATE.

SO THE FUTURE OF THE IVORIAN FISHING INDUSTRY HINGES HEAVILY ON WHETHER SUCCESSFUL AGREEMENTS CAN BE COMPLETED WITH OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHO TGE RICHER MARINE RESOURCES. ALTHOUGH SKYROCKETING REPLACEMENT COSTS OF THE PRESENT ANTIQUATED FLEET AND VASTLY INCREASED OPERATING EXPENSES LEAVES SOME DOUBT ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF THIS COURSE.

PRODUCTION IN METRIC TONS

| | 1972 | 1973 |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| BOTTOM FISH | 12,965 | 14,643 |
| SARDINES | 41,985 | 27,115 |
| TUNA | 3,494 | 3,400 |
| SUB TOTAL | 58,444 | 45,158 |
| MARINE ARTISINAL | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| LAGOON " | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| FRESH WATER " | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| SUB TOTAL (EST.) | 24,000 | 24,000 |
| SHRIMP | 877 | 810 |
| TOTAL | 83,321 | 69,968 |

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IMPORTS - METRIC TONS

| | 1972 | 1973 |
|--------------------|--------|--------|
| FROZEN FISH | 23,760 | 55,127 |
| SMOKED FISH (EST.) | 13,500 | 13,500 |
| CANNED (EST.) | 1,660 | 1,660 |

| | | |
|-------|--------|--------|
| TOTAL | 38,920 | 70,287 |
| SMITH | | |

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHERIES, FISHING INDUSTRY, PRODUCTION DATA, IMPORT DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ABIDJA07414
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740257-0984
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740949/aaaabprn.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUN 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IVORIAN FISHERY STATISTIC 1973
TAGS: EFIS, IV
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005